

Hulbert Insists 5th St. Pier Lease Is Bargain for City

Dock Commissioner Asserts Total Rental Will Be Dou- ble Present Receipts

Hits Back at Craig

**Trouble With Controller Is He
Wants to Do It All Him-
self, He Declares**

Dock Commissioner Murray Hulbert replied yesterday to Controller Craig's criticism of the proposed lease of 200 feet of the pier at the foot of East Fifth Street, Manhattan, to the Pawtucket and New York Transportation Company.

The Sinking Fund Commission approved the lease at Thursday's meeting, the Controller dissenting. The following day the Controller submitted to the Sinking Fund and Dock Commission information received from the Secretary of State of Massachusetts under the laws of which the company was incorporated urging that the lease be not executed until the city authorities had an opportunity to reconsider their action.

The Controller's information showed that the Pawtucket company had only \$800 paid in capital out of a capital stock of \$500,000, and that its incorporators were dummies. The Controller declared the practice of leasing piers to dummy corporations should stop.

Says Craig Tries to Do It All

In his answer the Dock Commissioner said he was "about through" trying to do it all himself, said Commissioner Hulbert, "and his desk is getting so clogged up that some things won't get off until it is too late for them to be of any value. I consider that the proposed bargain was a perfectly good one."

"This company wants the 200 feet of the pier for \$8,400, whereas we had been getting only \$7,114 for the entire pier. Then we would have the remaining 264 feet of the pier, for which I figure we could get as much in wharfage as the entire pier now brings."

"It is a common practice for new companies not to disclose their backers at the time of the incorporation and to start with small assets. My investigation showed that the company had the approval of the city government of Pawtucket, which had leased to it space at the public pier there."

Calls It Good Bargain

"Here are piers that, because of the depth of water—it is only about 12 feet at low tide at Fifth Street—can be used by ocean-going vessels, and have not been in demand. I got a chance to make a good bargain for the city, and the Controller holds it up."

"I think that when the city gets a 5 per cent return on its investment, with an additional 1 per cent for amortization and 2 per cent to cover taxes, that is all we should ask."

"As you know, I have decided to put up Pier 69, North River, at auction, as an object lesson. Now, here is something I'm going to tell you, something for which I will be criticised by Controller Craig and others. But I don't care; I am right. I am going to lease to the French Line, for three years, Pier 84, at the foot of West Forty-fourth Street, for \$10,000 a week. I could get more than twice that sum for this pier, at auction, from a stevedore, who would use it for profiteering. The pier is now controlled by the United States government, and it is at its suggestion that I am going to turn it over to the French, because they are engaged in war work and have turned over their piers in France to our government."

Price of Cornmeal Falls; Its Use Urged

Food Board Here Asks Pub- lic to Buy It and Save Wheat

Following a warning by Herbert Hoover that profiteers in cornmeal would be punished severely, the Federal Food Board announced last night that the price of cornmeal here had dropped two cents a pound since May 2, and probably would go lower.

"To-day cornmeal should be sold to the consumer at from 6½ to 7 cents a pound," said the Food Board's statement. "The retailer is paying the wholesaler 5½ to 6 cents a pound. Cornmeal is now cheaper than white flour, which is 7½ and 7½ cents a pound. Consumers are urged to help clear the market of the unusual supply of cornmeal and so save the wheat."

F. W. Eike, head of the board's distribution bureau, will ask the bakers to-morrow to use more cornmeal. Bernard Hoffman, who, when the Food Board was formed, gave up his business as a consulting engineer to become an assistant, without pay, in the Bureau of Transportation and Distribution, was yesterday appointed head of the newly created sugar division of the bureau, which will handle the distribution of sugar to manufacturers and home canners under the certificate plan.

John Worthington

PITTSBURGH, May 11.—John Worthington, for many years one of the leading figures in the international business of the Standard Oil Company, died in the dining car of a Pennsylvania Railroad train near Altoona, Penn., when on his way to his home in Pittsburgh from the East this morning.

Mr. Worthington was seventy years old and a millionaire, carried the business of the Standard Oil into all parts of the world, and at one time was located in Turkey, where he served as an officer in the Turkish army.

Dr. George A. Williams

The funeral of Dr. George Albert Williams, a member of the staff of physicians of Rushwick Hospital, who died at the hospital yesterday, will be held from 449 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, to-morrow evening. Dr. Williams, sixty-three years old, was well known as a specialist in gynecology.

Dr. Williams's death was caused by a slight cut he received almost a year ago while operating. Blood poisoning developed. He leaves a daughter, Miss Augusta K. Williams, a brother and sister.

Engineer Killed, 23 Firemen Hurt, In \$500,000 Fire

Government Beef and Eggs Lost in Blaze in 11th Ave. Refrigerating Plant

One man was killed and more than half a million dollars' damage was done early last evening when a series of explosions in the engine room of the Merchants' Refrigerating Company's plant at Eleventh Avenue and Sixteenth Street threatened to destroy the entire structure, which is eleven stories high and covers a city block. Prompt work by the firemen, who were forced to battle most of the time with deadly ammonia fumes, prevented the blaze started by the explosions from spreading.

James Vincent, who lived on Fresh Pond Road, Brooklyn, and who was assistant engineer of the plant, was killed instantly. Battalion Chiefs Joseph Dooley and Lawrence McGuire, Acting Chief George L. Ross and about twenty other firemen were bruised and cut by bits of wood and pieces of glass which were blown into the street by small explosions which followed the first big crash.

Vincent, William E. Berend, of 65 Twenty-fifth Street, Elmhurst, Long Island, the chief engineer, and two other men were in the engine room of the plant, which is located in the cellar, at the corner of Eleventh Avenue and Seventeenth Street, shortly after 7 o'clock last night, when a slight rumbling warned them of danger.

Berend and the two men managed to rush from the room just before the main explosion completely wrecked the engine room, blew off the steel head of an ammonia tank, which crushed Vincent down at the doorway. His body was recovered some time after the firemen reached the scene by members of the rescue squad, wearing their gas masks.

"Smoky Joe" Martin, who reached the building on the second alarm, promptly sent in two more. Police reserves were also called from four precincts, and, with the assistance of soldiers guarding the barred zone around the piers of the Atlantic Transport Line, directly across the street from the plant, kept civilians a block away in all directions from the building.

The plant, an official of the company stated, contained 2,000,000 pounds of beef, 700,000 cases of eggs and a large quantity of copper and tobacco, belonging to the government. The same official, after an inspection of the wrecked engine room and refrigerating system, which was electrically operated and one of the finest in the country, declared the loss would be between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

City Officials Make Plea for Wagner Bill

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

ALBANY, May 11.—New York City officials to-day appealed to Governor Whitman to sign the Wagner bill permitting the city for each year during the war and for one year after to

issue \$15,000,000 in corporate stock or serial bonds, to extend over a time of from 10 to 50 years.

"This bill is necessary," said City Controller Craig, "to provide additions to schools to meet present overcrowded conditions. Under the present pay-as-you-go system new schools cannot be built and appropriations previously authorized for carrying various buildings cannot be used for other purposes. It also is necessary to meet the requirements of hospitals, armories and other improvements of pressing urgency under war conditions."

Nobody appeared in opposition to the bill, but a memorandum was filed against it by the Citizens Union on the ground that it interfered with the pay-as-you-go policy.

"The present law should not be known as a pay-as-you-go policy," said Edward J. McGoldrick, Assistant Corporation Counsel, "but a pay-as-you-start."

Senator Wagner also appeared for the bill, and it is expected that the Governor will sign it.

New York City officials also urged the Governor to sign the Donohue bill to permit the compensation of unlicensed physicians for work in the hospitals. At present young physicians can only serve in the hospitals without pay. So many young physicians have been called into war service that the New York City hospitals are badly crippled for interns, it was declared.

The Weather Report

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Another disturbance from the West is over Central Texas to-night and the precipitation area resulting therefrom extends from the Texas panhandle and Oklahoma east-northeastward through the Ohio Valley and Tennessee. There were also rains and snows to the northward and northeastward through Colorado and Northern New Mexico. There is one other disturbance over North America that was attended by local showers in its immediate vicinity. The disturbance of New York City was passed into the Atlantic and the showers in the Atlantic state ended during Friday night.

Elsewhere they are below the seasonal average, as the weather bureau continues. It will be somewhat warmer Sunday east of the Mississippi River, except New York, where there will be showers Sunday night or Monday. Western Tennessee and the West Gulf states the weather will be generally fair Monday, while to the eastward showers will continue. It will be somewhat warmer Sunday in the Atlantic states and cooler Monday in the interior South.

Forecast for Special Localities.—Eastern New York, showers Sunday and night and probably Monday. New York, cloudy Sunday, probably showers Monday. Southern New England, increasing cloudiness Sunday; showers at night or Monday. Southern New England, fair Sunday; Monday, showers. New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, showers Sunday and probably Monday.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows temperatures during the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

1918	1917
3 a. m. ... 48	46
6 a. m. ... 48	46
9 a. m. ... 48	46
12 m. ... 58	50
3 p. m. ... 58	50
6 p. m. ... 58	50
9 p. m. ... 58	50
24-hour ... 58	50

Highest temperature yesterday, 58 degrees; at 5:30 p. m.; lowest, 47 (at 2 a. m.); average, 55; average same date last year, 55; average same date for thirty-three years, 55.

Barometer Readings

8 a. m. ... 29.98 | 1 p. m. ... 30.04 | 8 p. m. ... 30.07

Local Official Forecast.—Showers to-day or to-night and probably to-morrow; moderate east and southeast winds, increasing somewhat to-night.

Fire Record

12:50—184th st. and Amsterdam av.: Knickerbocker Ice Co.; slight.
3:10—122 West 12th st.: William Hellock; slight.
4:45—438 Broadway av.: unknown; slight.
5:20—212 West 143d st.: Johnman Brothers; trifling.
5:30—344 West 35th st.: unknown; slight.
6:12—18 West 12th st.: Albion & Co.; trifling.
9:20—333 East 17th st.: Kate Growler; slight.
10:10—138 West 42d st.: Richard Manning; slight.
2:10—10 Lexington av.: Manhattan Trade School; slight.
5:10—169 West 47th st.: Somerset Hotel; trifling.
7:40—253 Stanton st.: Louis Grath; trifling.

Gary Plan Gone From 33 Schools, Says New Board

Education Heads Report Reorganization Work of First Four Months

Arthur Somers, President of the Board of Education, yesterday made public his report to the Mayor of the board's first four months of stewardship. Divided into five sections, it forms a summary of the lines upon which this board plans to reorganize the city's schools.

Among the actual achievements of the board thus far the elimination of the Gary plan from the schools system and the extension and standardization of school buildings are featured. So are the substantial contributions of school children and teachers to various forms of war service.

In submitting the record, President Somers was frankly proud. "It isn't a very lengthy document," said he, "but I think it contains the evidence of a good deal of painstaking and cooperative work. Trust the Mayor will feel satisfied. Personally, I feel that it speaks pretty well for the new, small board."

After dwelling on the administrative advantages enjoyed by such a board and on the early difficulties it encountered through the coal shortage and a fire which destroyed part of its building and many of its records, President Somers proceeds to the matter of reorganization.

Reorganization Work Begun

"One of the first problems the board undertook to solve," says his report, "was the organization of the schools. It asked the superintendents to investigate and report upon the advisability of organizing our schools on the basis of a six-year elementary, a three-year junior high school and a three-year senior high school plan. A resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors to appoint a committee of associate and district superintendents to consider this plan was adopted on April 9. This committee, I am in-

formed, is still at work conducting its investigation."

The problem of the junior high school, President Somers adds, is one of the most important facing the educational world to-day. So far, no agreement has been reached as to the proper organization of such schools. Under the leadership of City Superintendent Estinger, it is the ambition of the present Board of Education to supply a practical answer to this question and at the same time, by grouping of upper grades in central buildings, relieve the prevailing crowding in schools and extend the facilities for younger pupils.

"The addition of the ninth year, or first high school year," the report points out, "to the centrally located schools will go far toward relieving the congestion in the high schools. Courses of instruction for these junior high schools can be so devised as to guide the student class along definite lines."

Old Boards Plans "Scrapped"

In drawing on the \$11,839,395, which was left unexpended in the school construction account, the plans of the outgoing board were "scrapped" in toto by the present school heads. Acting in cooperation with the Board of Superintendents and the Building Bureau, the Board of Education adopted a standard type of school building, lay out and equipment. Hereby, President Somers says, "much time and labor heretofore expended in determining upon the type of building needed for a particular locality" will be saved, and construction costs appreciably lowered.

Plans for five new buildings of this sort have already been approved by the board, together with additions to four buildings and alterations to twenty others. In all of these, the report declares, classroom space has been increased without any corresponding increase in cost, gymnasium and shops have been amply provided for, special attention has been given to providing ample play space and, while the buildings are planned for single session schools, they are so arranged as to be convertible into double session schools in need of additional space.

Taking up the matter of the Gary plan, President Somers says: "When we organized, there were thirty-five schools operating under the Gary plan, with provision for extending it into seventy-one other schools and in ten additional. This extension work was immediately stopped, and the funds available for altering the buildings will be used to improve those buildings for regular school work with-

out any reference whatsoever to the Gary plan."

The Board of Superintendents was requested to modify programmes in all schools operating under the Gary plan, and in a recent report received from Superintendent Meloney, we are advised that the programmes have been changed by eliminating the objectionable features from all schools, except Public School 45, The Bronx, and Public School 89, Brooklyn. "Here, too, it is expected that the Gary features will be gradually done away with."

"The separate programmes," continues the report, "has been eliminated almost completely from the lower grades. Specialization or departmental teaching (the teaching of a single subject by a special teacher) has been largely eliminated for these children, and teachers now generally have their classes for all academic work."

For small children long auditorium periods have been discontinued, while shop work, cooking, sewing and elementary science, the report says, are now reserved for older pupils.

Under the heading "Salaries of Teachers" the report declares that owing to the better inducements being offered young women nowadays by the Federal government and mercantile houses such inroads have been made into the teaching staff that this city may find itself without a sufficient supply of teachers within the next year. To meet this situation the board has modified the requirements for teachers' license No. 1 and is now at work on a revised salary schedule, which, it states, will soon be presented to the Board of Estimate for approval.

Fights Van Cortlandt Will

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., May 11.—An affidavit filed with Surrogate Sawyer shows that Augustus Van Cortlandt, of New York, intends to contest the will of his brother, Robert B. Van Cortlandt, by which the greater part of his \$400,000 estate would go to Columbia University. He says that the testator's sister, Mrs. Mary Bayley Matthews, now in England, probably will contest the document also.

It is the belief of the contestants that the will that has been filed did not express the intentions of Mr. Van Cortlandt at the time of his death; that he was on the point of signing another will when he took his own life, and that the will on file here was not properly signed.

The signature, it was said, was not at the end of the instrument, but on the page preceding the last.

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For further details see Times or World.

To Take Bray From Mule

SALEM, Ore., May 11.—Removal of the Bray from mules was announced today as one of the purposes of a joint clinic which will be held at Portland next month by veterinarians from Washington and Oregon. Experiments will be performed upon mules in effort to discover the method which is known to exist by which they are deprived of their ability to Bray.

The operation was said by veterinarians here to have been performed successfully in the French army, adding greatly to the value of the mule for army use. The braying of the animals is said sometimes to have betrayed to the enemy the movements of an army.

According to Dr. W. H. Lytle, State Veterinarian for Oregon, three theories are held as to the method of performing the operation. One is a surgical treatment of the "halse nostril," another the severing of certain muscles in the neck and the third the severing of muscles in the tail.

BEST IN THE LONG RUN

The Cold Figures of It

FLEET	254	012	TIRE MILES
PACIFIC	166	960	TIRE MILES
MOUNTAIN	155	796	TIRE MILES
PRAIRIE	198	744	TIRE MILES
LAKE	217	372	TIRE MILES
DIXIE	3285	860	TIRE MILES

TOTAL 4,178,744 TIRE MILES

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